



## News Release

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### **Corps Holds Meetings to Discuss Future of the Mississippi River System**

**ROCK ISLAND, IL** -- The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will present an overview of the newly restructured study of the Upper Mississippi River and Illinois Waterway at a series of public meetings scheduled throughout the study area.

The meetings are designed to provide the public with a study update and to receive public reaction to its direction. "We want to see if there is general agreement with the direction in which we're heading," said Denny Lundberg, regional project manager.

The Upper Mississippi River – Illinois Waterway System Navigation Study was significantly restructured this past fall to encompass recommendations made by the National Research Council (NRC), the research arm of The National Academies. The NRC determined that it is difficult to predict waterway demand for the next 50 years and suggested an analysis that would take into account various possible future world conditions. The NRC also recommended that this effort be more comprehensive and give equal consideration to planning for the environment.

As a result of these recommendations, the study will no longer attempt to pinpoint a single forecast for describing the needs of the river system over the next 50 years. Instead, the study team will develop a set of plausible future worlds and will use them to formulate and evaluate alternative plans.

#### **Meeting Purpose**

Five public meetings will take place from March 12 through March 21. Each meeting will begin with open houses from 1 to 3 p.m. and from 5 to 6:30 p.m., feature a formal presentation at 6:30 p.m. and will end with an open house from 9 to 10 p.m.

The meetings will provide members of the public with a variety of ways to interact with the study team, its partner groups, and agencies. The meetings reflect another study shift toward more collaboration, Lundberg said. "We've been engaging key federal and state agencies and non-governmental organizations," he said. "We now feel it is time to engage the general public in this new collaborative process for river planning."

#### **Who Should Attend?**

The meetings are for everyone interested in the economic and environmental uses of the Upper Mississippi River and Illinois Waterway systems. Representatives from local, state and federal

## CORPS HOLDS MEETINGS

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organizations and agencies, and the public are encouraged to attend to get an overview of the newly restructured Navigation Study. The meetings are set for the following dates and locations:

**March 12 – Peoria, Ill.**

Holiday Inn Brandywine  
4400 N. Brandywine Drive  
Peoria, Ill.  
309-686-8000

**March 13 – St. Louis, Mo.**

Marriott Airport  
10700 Pear Tree Lane  
St. Louis, Mo.  
314-423-9700

**March 19 – Bloomington,  
Minn. (Twin Cities)**

Ramada Inn Minneapolis Airport  
2500 E. 79<sup>th</sup> Street  
Bloomington, Minn.  
952-854-1771

**March 20 – La Crosse, Wis.**

Best Western Midway  
1835 Rose Street  
La Crosse, Wis.  
608-781-7000

**March 21 – Davenport, Iowa  
(Quad Cities)**

Best Western SteepleGate Inn  
100 West 76<sup>th</sup> Street  
Davenport, Iowa  
563-386-6900

For more information about these meetings or the restructured Navigation Study, contact the Rock Island District, Public Affairs Office at (309) 794-5900, or visit the web site at:

<http://www.ursbethesda.com/umr-iwwsns>

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